

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Apparatus comprising:
 - first and second members movable one relative to an other;
 - an element mounted in one of said members which initiates an action in the apparatus;
 - a detector mounted in the other of said members which responds to a proximity of and detects an intensity of interaction with said element, turns on a noise flag if the intensity equals or exceeds a predetermined intensity value, and turns off the noise flag if the intensity is below the predetermined intensity value;
 - an inhibitor mounted in one of said members and which selectively inhibits the intensity of interaction between said element and said detector to prevent said detector from responding to the proximity of the element; and
 - a processor configured to:
 - determine a detection state of the detector as true or false; and
 - drive the inhibitor to selectively inhibit the intensity of interaction of the detector and the element based on the output of the detector and the determined detection state of the detector, wherein driving the inhibitor by:
 - determining that the detection state is true and inhibiting the intensity of the interaction with the element if the noise flag is on and the intensity of interaction is cancelled by a driving signal which changes the intensity of interaction to match the driving signal; and
 - determining that the detection state is false and not inhibiting the intensity of the interaction with the element if the noise flag is on and the intensity of interaction is unaffected by the driving signal.

2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said element is free of any necessity of application of an external source of power.
3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said detector responds to one of an electromagnetic wave, an electric field, a magnetic field, corpuscular radiation, and an acoustic wave.
4. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said element is a magnet, said detector is a Hall effect switch responsive to imposition of a magnetic field, and said inhibitor is a coil generating a magnetic field opposing the field of said magnet.
5. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said element is a light source, said detector is a photoelectric device, and said inhibitor is a light shield.
6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein one of said members is the lid of a portable computer system having a display therein and the other of said members is the body of a portable computer system having a keyboard therein.
7. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said inhibitor is responsive to a coded driving signal and further wherein said inhibitor, said element and said detector cooperate in determining the physical proximity of said members one relative to the other by detection of the coded driving signal.
8. (Currently amended) Apparatus comprising:
 - a portable computer system body;
 - a portable computer system lid;
 - a coupling joining said body and said lid together for movement thereof one relative to an other between open and closed positions; and
 - a proximity detection subsystem which determines whether said body and said lid are in the closed position, said subsystem comprising:

an element mounted in one of said body and said lid which initiates an action in the apparatus;

a detector mounted in the other of said body and said lid which responds to a proximity of and detects an intensity of interaction with said element, turns on a noise flag if the intensity equals or exceeds a predetermined intensity value, and turns off the noise flag if the intensity is below the predetermined intensity value;

an inhibitor mounted in said one of said body and said lid and which selectively inhibits the intensity of interaction between said element and to prevent said detector from responding to the proximity of the element; and

a processor configured to;

determine a detection state of the detector as true or false; and drive the inhibitor to selectively inhibit the intensity of interaction of the detector and the element based on the output of the detector and the determined detection state of the detector, wherein driving the inhibitor by:

determining that the detection state is true and inhibiting the intensity of the interaction with the element if the noise flag is on and the intensity of interaction is cancelled by a driving signal which changes the intensity of interaction to match the driving signal; and

determining that the detection state is false and not inhibiting the intensity of the interaction with the element if the noise flag is on and the intensity of interaction is unaffected by the driving signal.

9. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said element is a magnet, said detector is a Hall effect switch responsive to imposition of a magnetic field, and said inhibitor is a coil generating a magnetic field opposing the field of said magnet and further comprising a microprocessor operatively connected to control excitation of said coil.

10. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
detecting reception of a signal interaction of two members coupled for movement one

relative to the other normally indicative of initiation of a system operation and turning on a noise flag if the signal value equals or exceeds a predetermined signal value, and turns off the noise flag if the signal value is below the predetermined signal value;

determining a detection state of true or false of at least one of the two members;

selectively inhibiting reception of the signal interaction and preventing a response to the detected reception as a function of the determining the detection state; and

detecting a physical proximity of the two members and determining the appropriateness of initiating the system operation from close proximity of the members as a function of the selectively inhibiting the reception of the signal interaction and the determining the detection state by:

determining that the detection state is true and inhibiting the initiation of system operation if the noise flag is on and the signal value is cancelled by a driving signal which changes the signal value to match the driving signal; and

determining that the detection state is false and not inhibiting the initiation of system operation if the noise flag is on and the signal value is unaffected by the driving signal.

11. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

monitoring an output of a detector mounted in one of two members coupled for movement one relative to the other based on signal interaction of an element in the other member with the detector;

detecting an output normally indicative of initiation of a system operation, and turning on a noise flag if the signal value equals or exceeds a predetermined signal value, and turns off the noise flag if the signal value is below the predetermined signal value;

determining a detection state of the detector of true or false;

selectively inhibiting the signal interaction of the element with the detector and preventing a response by the detector to detecting the signal interaction; and

detecting a physical proximity of the members and determining an appropriateness of initiating the system operation from close proximity of the members as

a function of the selectively inhibiting the signal interaction and the determining the detection state by:

determining that the detection state is true and inhibiting the initiation of system operation if the noise flag is on and the signal value is cancelled by a driving signal which changes the signal value to match the driving signal; and
determining that the detection state is false and not inhibiting the initiation of system operation if the noise flag is on and the signal value is unaffected by the driving signal.

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11 wherein the selective inhibition and preventing the response occurs in response to detection that the members are withdrawn one from the other.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 11 wherein selective inhibition and preventing the response is discontinued in response to detection that the members are in close proximity one to the other.

14. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~computer program product~~ comprising:
a computer system; and
a computer readable medium and code stored on the medium which is effective when executing in thea computer system to cause the system to perform the steps of claim 10.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~computer program product~~ comprising:
a computer system; and
a computer readable medium and code stored on the medium which is effective when executing in thea computer system to cause the system to perform the steps of claim 11.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the element is a magnet and further including a noise magnetic field filter that filters external magnetic noise,

thereby mitigating interaction between the external magnetic noise and the detector when the first and second members are in close proximity to each other.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the detector responds to corpuscular radiation.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further including filtering noise that mimics the signal when the members are in a first position, with respect to each other, where the signal is not detected.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further including preventing detection of the output.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is activated by a power supply external to the inhibitor.